

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Goal: Collect and analyze internal and external information to monitor and enhance program effectiveness. Communicate internally and externally to accomplish our mission and to build an understanding of the Federal role in wildlife damage management.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Information Transfer—Information Services staff developed an automated audiovisual equipment reservation system for Fort Collins employees and began recording videotaped inhouse seminars on CD-Rom for distribution to field stations. A systematic revamping of NWRC's research project Webpages was also begun. Besides the Information Services page, the most notable additions include descriptions and photos of current Bird Research Program projects, detailing of NWRC's immunocontraception work, and full text of NWRC-authored 2000 publications. Work has also continued on developing the curriculum and Internet-based materials for the Living with Wildlife Institute for teachers and the distribution of the "Living With Wildlife" activity sheets for children.

Information Services staff members were responsible for the facilities and audiovisual arrangements for the Human Conflicts With Wildlife: Economic Considerations symposium and numerous other seminars held at the Center.

NWRC Archive—Highlights of the year include the addition of material to the unpublished reports collection and a reboxing effort to preserve these items. Beginning in summer 2000 and continuing through December 2000, a CSU public history student intern has been inventorying and reorganizing the International Program records collection.

NWRC's International Program ran from 1967 to 1995, and the records contain reports, correspondence, and program material. Reorganization will greatly increase accessibility of this important research information. Also, archive staff began a project to feature NWRC history in a monthly format on the Center's Website and the employee lunchroom bulletin board. Topics reflect past programs and personnel.

Library—In FY 2000, NWRC library staff continued to introduce new electronic services to patrons and add new material to the library catalog. More than 60 items, representing almost 40 percent of the cataloging backlog, were processed into the catalog. Additionally, 120 chapters of the Birds of North America were cataloged and made accessible to patrons. Journals once again threatened to overtake available empty space on shelves. The accumulated runs of more than 100 journal titles were shifted to relieve congestion in certain parts of the library. Journal issues for most titles, years 1993—99, were sent to a bookbinder for collation into annual volumes.

To streamline interlibrary loan processes, the library instituted use of the OCLC's Interlibrary Loan Fee Management System and the Interlibrary Loan Management Statistics System. The former automates payment of any incurred interlibrary loan fees. The latter compiles monthly statistics for use by the

NWRC Library in maintaining compliance with copyright guidelines and for use in quantifying the number and type of transactions completed. The library also purchased WebZap $^{\text{TM}}$, which, when fully automated, will allow WS personnel to file requests for books and photocopies electronically.

Copies of the NWRC Research Update, Publications List, and annual highlights report were distributed. Several hundred copies of the publication "Symposium on Double-Crested Cormorants: Population Status and Management Issues in the Midwest" were mailed, and the full text of the publication was added to the NWRC Website.

The Information Services Webpage was redesigned and enhanced. Purchase and implementation of Reference Web Poster™ software allows all Website visitors to search ProCite[™] databases available in the library. The searchable databases include the 1st through the 18th Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference (fully subject indexed), the 1st through the 7th Proceedings of the Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, the 1st through the 13th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop Proceedings (partially subject indexed), the 1st through the 8th Proceedings: Bird Control Seminar, and the Annotated Bibliography of Bird Hazards to Aircraft.

GLAS™ Access software now allows Web access to the library online catalog, including the main collection and an unpublished reports file. Search tips have been custom designed for easier use. The library journals listing is available from the new Information

Services page, as are NWRC's publications listings. Direct links to the Wildlife Worldwide data base, as well as UnCover™, Agris™, Agricola, and Grateful Med databases (the latter four, searchable at no cost) are also provided. A trial link to OCLC's First Search

databases is available for Fort Collins personnel. Updated descriptions of the NWRC Library, Archives, and overall function of the Information Services unit have been added. New reference links are available to aid staff in location of useful sites.

SEMINARS

During 2000, NWRC continued to be a focal point for interesting seminars by its own and visiting scientists. Twenty-six individuals spoke on such subjects as coyote behavior, best management trapping practices, wildlife

diseases, conservation genetics, wildlife reproductive inhibitors, animal care and research issues, aquaculture, and State agency wildlife damage-compensation programs.

NWRC SEMINARS

Speaker	Affiliation	Title
Mike Jaeger	NWRC (Berkeley)	R&D of Effective, Socially Acceptable Approaches to Coyote Management
Brian Mitchell	UC-Berkeley	Factors Affecting Responses of Alpha Coyotes to Broadcast Calls
Samara Trusso	International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Developing Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States
Richard Duke	University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Ceres Pharmaceuticals	Vaccines That Target Antigen Presenting Cells
Terrell Salmon	UC-Davis	Anticoagulant Baiting Strategies for California Ground Squirrels
John Pape	Colorado Division of Public Health (Denver)	Zoonotic Disease: What's Waiting in the Woods?
Eric Gese	NWRC (Logan)	Field Research on Predator Ecology
Dale Nolte	NWRC (Olympia)	Overview of the Olympia Field Station: Wildlife and Protecting Forest Resources
Brian Dorr	NWRC (Starkville)	The Great Blue Heron and Aquaculture: Changing Perspectives
Brad Blackwell	NWRC (Sandusky)	Recent Work at the Ohio Field Station: Evaluating New Taste and Visual Avian Repellants
Will Pitt	NWRC (Logan)	Modeling of Coyote Population Dynamics
Mike Avery	NWRC (Gainesville)	Overview on Research at the Florida Field Station

NWRC SEMINARS CONT'D

Speaker	Affiliation	Title
Jack Rhyan	NWRC (Ft. Collins)	Wildlife and Domestic Animal Interactions: Infectious Diseases of Concern
Peter Savarie	NWRC (Ft. Collins)	Overview of Brown Tree Snake Toxicant Research
Christen Williams	Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University	Molecular Tools for Managing Wildlife Populations
Christopher Walker	Uppsala University, Sweden	Conservation GeneticsConservation Biology
J. Andrew DeWoody	University of Georgia, Genetics Department	The Natural History of Fish Mating Systems: A Genetic Perspective
Grant Singleton	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia	Immunocontraception, Trap-Barrier Systems and Farmer Participatory Research—Rodent Tails From Down Under
Steve Porter	Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)	Managing Wildlife Damage in Colorado: Overview of the CDOW Program
Al Dale	NWRC (Ft. Collins)	Integrating Animal Care and Research Needs
Edward Schafer	NWRC (Ft. Collins, retired)	Review and Status of DWRC Toxicant and Repellant Screening Tests— 25 Years of Agent Testing
Jim Glahn	NWRC (Starkville)	A Strategic Plan for Managing Cormorant Damage to Southern Aquaculture
David R. Anderson	CSU, Fishery and Wildlife Biology Department	Perspective on How Science Might Be Done in the Next Century
Earl Campbell	NWRC (Hilo)	Trouble in Paradise: Invasion of Hawaii by Alien Frogs
David Goldade	NWRC (Ft. Collins)	Biotransformation of 3-Chloro-p-toluidine Hydrochloride (CPTH)
Simon C. Nemtzov	Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Science and Conservation Division, Jerusalem	An Israeli Success Story: Conflict Resolution and Conservation of the Endangered Pygmy Cormorant <i>(Phalacrocorax pygmeus)</i>

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Fifteenth Annual Airport Conference—

This conference, held in Chicago in November 1999, was attended by about 400 representatives from throughout the aviation industry. During the keynote address, Captain Dennis Dolan, first vice president of the Air Line Pilots Association, highlighted bird strikes as a key safety issue facing the aviation industry. Topics covered by NWRC scientists included the development, management, and uses of the National Wildlife Strike Database, new wildlife management tools for airports such as a recently registered anthraquinone formulation to repel geese, and production of a 300page manual on wildlife hazard management for airports that was distributed to airports nationwide in December 1999. NWRC personnel also had an exhibit at the conference that promoted WS research and management programs at airports. NWRC's research on these topics is funded in part by Federal agencies, private industry, and various airport authorities through interagency and cooperative agreements.

USDA Forest Service Silvicultural Team

Visits—NWRC's Olympia, WA, field station hosted the silvicultural team from the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station on July 5. A group of 18 Forest Service specialists toured the facilities and discussed current and past research activities with field station personnel. NWRC staff provided an overview of the biology and behavior of the wildlife species that damage timber resources and discussed ongoing efforts to alleviate forest damage, as well as research projects being conducted to develop new techniques, to improve the efficacy of existing techniques, and to obtain information on the environmental effects of forest protection practices.

The silvicultural team saw mountain beaver, beaver, and deer within different habitat-use pen research facilities and discussed recent studies of bear activity in the vicinity of supplemental feeding stations that are used in some areas to reduce bear girdling of trees after emergence from hibernation.

NWRC has worked closely with the Forest Service to develop methods to reduce the problems encountered when establishing trees for reforestation, improving species diversity, restoring riparian habitats, or for protecting areas where regeneration or spread of natural timber stands have been impeded by foraging animals

Electric Utility Consultation—An NWRC researcher was invited by an electric utility construction company to participate in a discussion of woodpecker damage to wood utility poles in June. The discussions centered around the extent of woodpecker damage to utility poles and the potential products for prevention, control, and repair of woodpecker damage to them. The group also identified three potential research areas: repellants, coatings, and habitat management.

NWRC has developed a cooperative research proposal with industry and academic groups to investigate these potential areas of research to prevent woodpecker damage to utility poles. Several additional utility companies in the Southeastern and Northwestern United States have expressed interest.

Cable News Network's Aquaculture **Story**—Wildlife biologists with NWRC's Starkville field station were featured on the July 13, 2000, Cable News Network (CNN) television program "Earth Matters." Along with an aquaculture industry representative from Louisiana, NWRC biologists were interviewed regarding their ongoing research associated with the impacts of fish-eating birds on southern aquaculture. In particular, the CNN story highlighted NWRC satellite telemetry research in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. This research has been designed to evaluate regional movements of double-crested cormorants associated with catfish depredation in these States. The CNN story was an opportunity for the international audience to understand some of the present NWRC aquaculture research activities.

Human Conflicts With Wildlife: Economic Considerations Symposium—The

NWRC hosted a "Human Conflicts With Wildlife: Economic Considerations Symposium" August 1–3, 2000, in Fort Collins. In all, 25 invited speakers from the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom, representing a cross section of the most knowledgeable authorities in the world on wildlife-human conflicts and the associated costs, addressed more than 100 participants. Symposium topics included methods for quantifying resource damage caused by wildlife and case studies of damage caused by wildlife to agricultural commodities, the costs associated with damage caused by wildlife to nonagricultural activities of humans, the costs and implementation of management programs to control the spread of wildliferelated diseases to humans and domestic livestock, optimization models as a method to allocate research and operational resources in the development of management plans, and the impact of wildlife on other wildlife as it relates to environmental management practices.

This is the third such international symposium hosted by NWRC. The previous two were titled Repellants in Wildlife Management (1993) and Contraception in Wildlife Management (1995).

Aquaculture for Kids—A wildlife technician at NWRC's Starkville field station recently presented a "Living With Wildlife" information seminar to 200 elementary school children in July. The technician described problems associated with piscivorus birds feeding at catfish and bait fish farms in the Southern United States and gave an overview of research techniques used to study these birds and how research helps alleviate these conflicts. The children viewed a slide presentation, NWRC posters, and various equipment used to study wildlife (e.g., telemetry, traps, and bands) and were given "Living With Wildlife" materials.

Bird Strike Committee-USA/Canada-

About 400 people from 15 countries attended the second annual joint meeting of Bird Strike Committee–USA (BSC–USA), and Bird Strike Committee–Canada at Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport in August. The meeting was organized by NWRC Sandusky field station biologists in cooperation with several aviation groups and WS personnel from Minnesota. In all, 37 technical papers and posters were presented on topics related to reducing wildlife collisions with aircraft.

Among highlights of the conference were presentations by representatives from several Federal transportation agencies regarding their recommendations to reduce wildlife hazards on airports. Another highlight was the demonstration of various techniques for managing wildlife on airports during an all-day field trip to two airports. Fifteen companies exhibited their wildlife management products or services.

The goal of BSC–USA is to increase communication and professionalism among the diverse groups dealing with wildlife issues on airports, and the 2000 meeting appeared to be highly successful in this regard. WS biologists played an increasingly important role in reducing wildlife hazards at U.S. airports in 1999, providing assistance at 363 airports. About 70 WS biologists attended the meeting.

Third International Symposium and Workshop on Frugivory and Seed

Dispersal—A scientist from the NWRC's Gainesville, FL, field station attended the third International Symposium and Workshop on Frugivory and Seed Dispersal during August, in São Pedro, Brazil. The scientist presented a plenary talk on reducing bird damage to cultivated fruit. The conference was attended by about 300 persons from 30 different countries.

Taming the Wild Stuff—The Society of American Archivists held its annual meeting in Denver from August 31 to September 2. The sessions concerned various archival and records management issues. In addition, plenary speakers provided insight into the future of the archival field and the value of diversity. The NWRC Records Manager/Archivist participated in a panel on material culture. A slide presentation, "Taming the Wild Stuff," detailed using material culture as exhibit and educational instruments. NWRC's material culture includes the tools used in research and damage control work, and these items are important historical artifacts.

Mississippi Wildlife Services State

Meeting—Wildlife biologists from the NWRC's Starkville field station made several presentations at the Mississippi WS State meeting, at Plymouth Bluff, MS, in August. The presentations provided an overview of the Mississippi field station's recent research on double-crested cormorant and great blue heron depredations on aquaculture in Mississippi. The talks focused on nonlethal avian dispersal techniques such as the use of laser light at cormorant roosts, economic impacts and management recommendations concerning great blue heron depredations on catfish aquaculture, and satellite telemetry research regarding regional and migratory movements of cormorants. The presentations demonstrated that information developed from this research is used to design specific tools and management recommendations that can be used by NWRC's stakeholders.

Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture North American Waterfowl Management Team—A wildlife biologist from the NWRC's Starkville field station met with members of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture North American Waterfowl Management Team in Vicksburg, MS, in August. Members of the team included waterfowl researchers from Federal agencies and private organizations. The meeting was arranged to address aerial and ground survey issues concerning future research on double-crested cormorant populations and their distribution on catfish aquaculture in the Mississippi delta. The proposed research will be integrated with ongoing satellite telemetry research to address questions concerning use of aquaculture, migratory patterns, population estimation, and population turnover of double-crested cormorants in the Southeast.

Symposium Adjunct to the Wildlife Society's Annual Meeting—WS, The Humane Society of the United States, and the Jack Berryman Institute cosponsored a symposium entitled "Nonlethal Approaches to Wildlife Damage Management: Promise, Potential, Reality" at the national meeting of the Wildlife Society in Nashville in September. There were 14 presentations by leading scientists (including 3 from NWRC), administrators, and practitioners in the field of wildlife damage management. Issues discussed included the efficacy and humaneness of relocation of nuisance wildlife to resolve conflicts, the effectiveness of various exclusion devices, situations where lethal control is justified, and the potential for reproductive inhibitors. The symposium was successful in promoting constructive dialogue that should lead to greater cooperation among the various governmental and private groups dealing with the growing diversity of wildlifehuman conflicts.

PUBLICATIONS

[**Boldface type** indicates that an author is employed at NWRC.]

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